

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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R 171457 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 210

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

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E. O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, CN

SUBJ: COMORIAN INDEPENDENCE

REF: PARIS 9642

1. AHMED ABDALLAH, PRESIDENT OF GOVERNING COUNCIL OF COMORO ISLANDS, CURRENTLY IN PARIS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS. ABDALLAH HAS BROUGHT WITH HIM FAIRLY NUMEROUS ENTOURAGE REPRESENTING ALL ISLANDS IN ARCHIPELAGO, AND INCLUDED ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TO FRENCH PARLIAMENT. ABDALLAH HAS TO DATE MET WITH PRESIDENT POMPIDOU AND PRIME MINISTER MESSMER AND HAD TALKS WITH VARIOUS MINISTRIES CONTINUING.

2. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH MESSMER MAY 16, ABDALLAH STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD SOON BE BEGINNING NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRENCH FOR INDEPENDENCE OF COMORO ISLANDS. IT REMAINED TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER, IN WHAT WAY INDEPENDENCE WILL BE EXPRESSED. HE STRESSED THAT INDEPENDENCE BEING DEMANDED IN SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP WITH FRANCE. ACCORDING TO AGENCY DISPATCHES, ABDALLAH DID NOT RAISE INDEPENDENCE ISSUE WITH POMPIDOU BUT CONFINED HIMSELF TO TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS. TALKS REPORTEDLY " VERY CORDIAL AND VERY

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FRIENDLY".

3. COMMENT: AS INDICATED REFTTEL, ONE PROCEDURE FOR MOVING FORWARD ON INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE FOR COMORO REPRESENTATIVES IN FRENCH PARLIAMENT TO TAKE ACTION. THUS, IT MAY BE OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE THAT ABDALLAH DELEGATION INCLUDES COMORIAN REPRESENTATIVES IN BOTH ASSEMBLY AND SENATE. TO DATE, COMORIANS ARE PROCEEDING WITH GREAT CAUTION AND ARE OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT POLITICAL EVOLUTION NOT UNDERCUT THEIR NEED FOR FRENCH ECONOMIC SUPPORT.

DECON 12/31/74.

IRWIN

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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